

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 are pending in the application, with 1 being the independent claims.

Objection to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as being too long. Applicant has amended the Abstract to accommodate the Examiner's objection.

Rejections Under Double Patenting

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 3 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,311,095. Claim 1 is also rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 6,662,061. Claim 1 is also provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of co-pending U.S. Application Nos. 11/131,480 and 10/822,229.

Applicant has amended claim 1 thereby rendering moot the statutory double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,211,095. Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent Nos. 6,311,095, 6,662,061, and 7,107,112 and over co-pending U.S. Application No. 11/131,480. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting has been fully accommodated and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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